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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/600,801	06/19/2003	Yuko Nabekura	16869P-078400US	9709
20350	7590	07/14/2005	EXAMINER	
TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER EIGHTH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834			WALTER, CRAIG E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2188	

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/600,801

Applicant(s)

NABEKURA ET AL.

Examiner

Craig E. Walter

Art Unit

2188

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/12/04, 6/19/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

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***Claim Objections***

1. Claims 5-10 are objected to because of the following informalities:

As for claims 5 and 7, the phrase "the base type information" in lines 10 and 13 respectively should be changed to "base type information".

As for claims 5 and 14, the phrase "the characteristics" in lines 10-11 of claim 5 (and line 13 of claim 14) should be changed to "characteristics".

Claims 6 and 8-10 are objected to as they further limit claims 5 or 7 respectively.

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As for claim 1, lines 4-5 set forth one or more external devices to be connected to an information processing device. It is unclear however if the "external device" referred to once in lines 12-13 and twice in line 15 is the same device as "the connected external device" as described in 11, or another device selected from the plurality of devices as referenced in lines 1-2.

As for claim 5, lines 4-5 set forth one or more external devices to be connected to an information processing device. Line 11 references "the external device", however it is unclear which device from the plurality of external devices is being claimed within this phrase. Further, it is unclear if the "connected external device" as described in lines 14-15 of the claim is referring to the same external device (as in line 11) as no reference to one and only one "connected device" is provided earlier in the claim.

Likewise, claim 7 sets forth one or more external devices, however lines 11-13 of the claim refer to "the external device" and "the connected external device" without making previous reference to any one external device or connected external device. It is unclear if these two devices are the same devices as selected from the predetermined set of external devices described in lines 3-4.

As for claim 11, one and only one connected external device is clearly defined in lines 1-2 of this claim, however it is unclear whether the "external device" referred to twice in line 14 is the one and only connected external device as described in lines 1-2, or another external device from the plurality of external devices as described in line 9.

Similarly in claims 14 and 16, one and only one connected external device is clearly defined in lines 1-2, however it is unclear whether the "external device" referred to in line 13 is the one and only connected external device as described in lines 1-2, or another external device from the plurality of external devices as described in line 9.

Claims 2-4, 6, 8-10, 12-13, 15 and 17-20 are further rejected as they inherit the antecedent basis insufficiencies for claims 1, 5, 7, 11, 14 and 16 respectively.

***Remarks***

3. No prior art has been applied to claims 1-20 due to the ambiguities set forth above in the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Howard et al. (US Patent 6,823,526 B2) discloses a computer-based system for automatic configuration of an external device.

Rothman et al. (US PG Publication 2003/0236971 A1) disclose a method for uniform and dynamic configuration of a computer system.

Cabrera et al. (US Patent 6,904,599 B1) disclose a storage management system having abstracted volume providers.

Aosawa (US PG Publication 2003/0055529 A1) discloses a system for automatically changing a computer system configuration.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Craig E. Walter whose telephone number is (571) 272-8154. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30a - 5:00p M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mano Padmanabhan can be reached on (571) 272-4210. The fax phone

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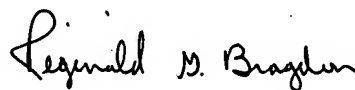
number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Craig E Walter  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2188

CEW



REGINALD G. BRAGDON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER